

Creel Survey

May 21, 2012

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Elochoman River from mouth to West Fork and Grays River from mouth to South Fork and West Fork from mouth to hatchery intake/footbridge – Under permanent rules, open to fishing for hatchery chinook and hatchery steelhead beginning the first Saturday in June (June 2nd this year).

Cowlitz River – Between the hatcheries remains best for spring chinook through fish are being caught throughout the river.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 71 winter-run steelhead, two jacks, 407 spring Chinook adults, 49, jacks and 56 summer-run steelhead during five days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 98 spring Chinook adults, 16 jacks, and three winter-run steelhead at the Day Use Park in Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam, 76 spring Chinook adults and nine jacks into the Cispus River above the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek, and 88 spring Chinook adults and 17 jacks into the upper Cowlitz River at Packwood.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 9,880 cubic feet per second on Monday, May 21. Water visibility is 11 feet.

Lake Scanewa (Cowlitz Falls Reservoir) – Beginning June 1, open to fishing for hatchery spring Chinook and hatchery rainbows.

Kalama River – Some spring chinook and steelhead are being caught. Through May 18, just 16 adult spring chinook, including 10 unmarked fish, had returned to Kalama Falls Hatchery. Through the same time last year, just 11 fish had returned. The hatchery escapement goal is 390 adults.

Lewis River – Effort and catches still remain light. Flows below Merwin Dam have nearly doubled today from about 3,000 cfs. to 5,500 cfs.

Through May 18, just 141 adults, including 4 unmarked fish, had returned to the traps. An estimated 200-500 fish are reported in the trap today. The hatchery escapement goal is 1,277 adults.

East Fork Lewis River from the mouth to 400 feet below Horseshoe Falls (except closures around various falls) and the Washougal River from the mouth to Salmon Falls Bridge – Under permanent rules these areas will be open to fishing with bait for hatchery steelhead beginning the first Saturday in June (June 2nd this year).

Washougal River – Bank anglers are catching some steelhead. Until today, low flows were making it difficult to drift by boat.

Wind River – Boat anglers were doing about the same as the previous week, a little better than a fish per every 3 rods. Very windy at times last week and the peak count only reached 80 boats. Anglers in the gorge are also catching some fish.

Through May 13 there have been an estimated 5,286 boat angler trips at the mouth of the Wind with 1,296 adult chinook kept and 53 released. With the increased fishing area at the mouth and the need to monitor any increase of catch of non-Carson fish, the weekly creel sampling and in-season effort/catch estimates are being provided by using the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement Fees.

Through today (May 21), a total of 80 spring chinook had returned to Carson National Fish Hatchery. The hatchery escapement goal is 1,500 fish.

Drano Lake – Boat anglers averaged almost a fish per every 3 rods while bank anglers averaged one per every 6 rods.

The hatchery escapement goal of 1,000 fish has been met with 2,171 adults back to Little White Salmon Fish Hatchery through this morning.

Klickitat River – Including fish released, bank anglers from the Fisher Hill Bridge downstream averaged a fish per every other rod. Still some bright chinook being caught.

Flows at Pitt are currently 3,400 cfs. and expected to rise to 4,000 cfs. by tomorrow evening. Long term mean for the date is 2,500 cfs. Flows are expected to reach 4,600 cfs. by the end of the month.

Under permanent rules, the Klickitat River from the Fisher Hill Bridge downstream will open 7 days per week beginning June 1. The salmon daily limit will be 6 fish of which no more than 2 may be adults. Two hatchery steelhead may also be retained. Release wild chinook.

The section from 400 feet upstream from # 5 fishway upstream to boundary markers below the Klickitat Salmon Hatchery will open to fishing for hatchery chinook jacks and hatchery steelhead beginning June 1 under permanent rules. Again, release wild chinook.

Lower Columbia mainstem from the Rocky Point /Tongue Point upstream to the I-5 Bridge – Last week we sampled 269 salmonid anglers (including 20 boats) with 1 jack spring Chinook and 9 steelhead kept and 8 adult spring Chinook released. Of the adult Chinook released, 7 were hatchery and 1 was wild.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia from the Marker 82 line downstream – We sampled 79 sturgeon anglers (including 23 boats) with 6 legal kept. Five of the legal were sampled in the estuary; the other in the Camas/Washougal area.

The Dalles Pool – Based on incomplete information, slow for legal size fish.

Walleye and Bass

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – Boat anglers are catching some walleye in the Camas/Washougal area.

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers caught some walleye based on incomplete information.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers averaged a walleye and over 5 bass kept/released per rod. Bank anglers were catching some bass.

Shad

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – Boat anglers in the Kalama area averaged nearly a dozen shad per rod. Bank anglers in the Camas/Washougal area were also catching some shad. Bonneville Dam daily counts are now >1,000 fish per day.

Trout

Kress Lake near Kalama – 20 surplus hatchery adult winter steelhead were planted in the lake last Friday May 18.

Kidney Lake near North Bonneville – Planted with 1,536 catchable size rainbows May 14.

Spearfish Lake near Dallesport – Planted with 2,010 catchable size and 10 ten pound rainbows May 14.

Anglers are catching a variety of landlocked coho, rainbows, and warm water fish from SW Washington lakes. See attached file for creel sampling summaries.

Plants of catchable size rainbows scheduled for SW WA streams that open June 2

(note: see <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/plants/weekly/> for actual plants) –

- Skate Creek – 18,750 (June-Aug.)
- Tilton River – 18,750 (June-Aug.)
- Canyon Creek (Clark Co.) – 5,000 (June)
- Bird Creek (Klickitat Co.) -1,500 (May)
- Bowman Creek (Klickitat Co.) – 1,000 (May)
- Outlet Creek (Klickitat Co.) – 1,000 (May)
- Spring Creek (Klickitat Co.) – 3,000 (May)
- Little White Salmon River (Skamania Co.) – 3,000 (May)

Plants of catchable size rainbows and other trout scheduled for SW WA lakes

(again see <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/plants/weekly/> for actual plants):

- Scanewa (Cowlitz Falls Reservoir) – 20,000 (June-Aug.)
- Mayfield – 65,000 (May-Aug.)
- Council – 4,000 (Summer)
- Goose - 1,000 browns and 6,000 cutthroats (Summer)
- Takh lakh – 4,000 (Summer)

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
Bonneville ¹	812	128	closed	closed	closed				940	47.0%	Feb. 17 ²	2,000
The Dalles	27	0	20	15					62	20.7%	Apr. 30	300
John Day	75	63	50	145					333	66.6%	Apr. 30 ³	500

¹ Due to the high effort and harvest in Bonneville Pool, we are providing weekly harvest estimates. We will continue to provide harvest estimates for the other pools on a monthly basis.

² Bonneville Reservoir closed to sturgeon retention effective February 18. It will re-open June 15-16 and June 22-23 to finish the guideline.

³ John Day Reservoir closed to sturgeon retention effective May 21.

Harvest estimates are calculated monthly. All in-season estimates are preliminary.

Current month sampled sturgeon kept:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug		
Bonneville	66	20	closed	closed	closed				86	May 20
The Dalles	5	0	1	3	2				11	May 20
John Day	9	9	19	28	5				70	May 20

Samplers generally observe from 10% - 25% of total harvest.

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

May 14 - 20, 2012

The following table is a summary of numbers of fish observed by samplers.

Samplers generally observe from 10% - 25% of total harvest.

Sturgeon														
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool						4							82	86
The Dalles Pool						8	2	4	4			1	3	11
John Day Pool	12					17	9	19	15		4	2	53	70
Total	12					29	11	23	19		4	3	138	167
Salmonids														
	Bank Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Jacks Kept Week Cum
Bonneville Pool	45		1	14										
Chinook			1	14										14
Coho														
Steelhead														
The Dalles Pool	27		1	3		43	12	31		3	1		43	86
Chinook			1	3		33				3	1		9	42
Coho														
Steelhead						10							34	44
John Day Pool	57		6	13	1	25	5	10		1			1	26
Chinook			6	13	1	24				1				24
Coho														
Steelhead						1							1	2
Walleye														
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool													27	27
The Dalles Pool						2	3	9		6			356	358
John Day Pool	1						15	34	1	33			278	278
Bass														
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool													1	1
The Dalles Pool						8							17	25
John Day Pool	7	4	1			9	9	23	66	53			97	106

¹ Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

		Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	none	none	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
The Dalles	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	11%	55%	49%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	1.25	0.14	0.67	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	0.07	0.67	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	45%	213%	110%	168%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.68	0.31	0.97	4.13
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.13	0.19	0.94	1.80

9:00 AM

Month/Week	Salmonid											# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept Adults	Chinook			Steelhead Kept	Steelhead Rel.	Sockeye		Other
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Steelhead Kept	Rel.	Sockeye Kept	Rel.	Jacks				Released Adults	Jacks	Kept			Rel.	Kept	
Bonneville	1	CLOSED											CLOSED	CLOSED								
Camas/Washougal	2	CLOSED											CLOSED	CLOSED								
Vancouver	4	37	CLOSED	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	CLOSED	0	2	0	0	0	0	
Woodland	5	91	CLOSED	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	9	CLOSED	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Kalama	6	43	CLOSED	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Cowlitz	7		CLOSED												CLOSED							
Longview	8	35	CLOSED	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	6	12	CLOSED	0	1	0	1	0	0	
Cathlamet	9	29	CLOSED	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0			CLOSED							
private boats/bank charter	10		CLOSED										3	4	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	10		CLOSED												CLOSED							
Total		235	CLOSED	1	4	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	20	34	CLOSED	0	4	0	1	0	0	0

Month/Week	Sturgeon											# Boats	Boat Anglers	Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.	Legals Kept
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.	Legals Kept	Boats	Anglers	Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.						
Bonneville	1						3	5	8	0	0	0					
Camas/Washougal	2	6	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	0	0	1					
Vancouver	4						2	4	2	0	0	0					
Woodland	5	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	0					
Kalama	6	2	0	0	0	0	5	14	9	0	0	0					
Cowlitz	7						1	4	3	0	0	0					
Longview	8	2	0	0	0	0	4	9	9	0	0	0					
Cathlamet	9	2	1	0	0	0											
Chinook - Knappton	10	3	0	0	0	0	6	21	21	0	2	5					
Cathlamet	10																
Total		16	1	0	0	0	23	63	56	0	3	6					

Month/Week	Walleye				# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept	Rel.
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept	Rel.				
Bonneville	1							
Camas/Washougal	2				2	2	1	0
Vancouver	4							
Woodland	5							
Kalama	6							
Cowlitz	7							
Longview	8							
Cathlamet	9							
Chinook/Elochoman	10							
Total		0	0	0	2	2	1	0

Month/Week	Shad				# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept	Rel.
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept	Rel.				
Bonneville	1							
Camas/Washougal	2	6	1	0	2	2	0	0
Vancouver	4							
Woodland	5							
Kalama	6				4	8	94	0
Cowlitz	7							
Longview	8							
Cathlamet	9							
Chinook/Elochoman	10							
Total		6	1	0	6	10	94	0

WDFW 2012 Creel Data For Lakes in SW Washington

Lake	Dates Surveyed	Water Temp	# of Known Anglers	# of Boats	# Anglers Surveyed	Species Caught	# of Fish Caught	Primary Gear Used
Battle Ground Lake								
Carlise Lake	05/19/2012 -		24	2	17	RB	7	BAIT
Fort Borst Lake	05/19/2012 -		9	0	7	RB	13	BAIT
Horseshoe Lake								
Horsethief Lake	05/15/2012	62	4	1	2	rb	9	bait
Icehouse Lake	05/15/2012 -		5	0	5	rb	1	bait
Kidney Lake	05/15/2012 -		3	0	3	rb	13	bait
Kress Lake								
Lacamas Lake	05/15/2012 -		34	10	19	crappie rbt	1 2	bait
Little Ash Lake	05/19/2012 -		0	0	0	rb 0	1 0	0
Mayfield Reservoir	05/19/2012 -		17	17	0	0	0	0
Merwin Reservoir								
Plummer Lake	05/19/2012 -		14	3	6	rb rbt	7 1	bait
Riffe Reservoir	05/19/2012 -		9	3	9 coho		37	bait
Rowland Lakes	05/15/2012	63	3	1	1	rb	1	bait
Lake Sacajawea								
Silver Lake	05/19/2012 -		45	23	25	smb rb crappie yellow perch channel cat grass carp carp	18 1 24 3 2 2 9	lure and bait
South Lewis County Park Pond	05/19/2012 -		25	2	18	rb	43	bait
Spearfish Lake	05/15/2012	67	3	0	3	rb	2	bait
Swofford Pond	05/19/2012 -		64	10	31	rb rb brood yellow perch lmb	1 4 2 2	bait lures
Tunnel Lake	05/15/2012	0	0	0	0	blue gill 0	15 0	0
Vancouver Lake								
Yale Reservoir								

Washington Southwest Washington lakes sport sampling summaries - May 14-20.

No report.